

Filling the Gaps:

Environmental Protection Options for Local Governments



FILLING THE GAPS: Environmental Protection Options for Local Governments

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This project is dedicated to my parents, who taught me to take risks and follow through. Thanks to you, I fell in love with Michigan's coast during the summers we sailed beside it. -KAA





JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

June 2003

Dear Michigan Land Use Official:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you *Filling the Gaps: Environmental Protection Options for Local Governments*. This book was written in response to environmental concerns that have been raised by land use officials from our state's 1,800 plus local units of government.

Like many of you, we at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality recognize that Michigan's landscape is changing, and that we have an opportunity to accommodate and direct change in a way that ensures our state's precious resources will be preserved. This book is intended to help us work together to choose the path we will take to protect our resources and grow sustainably. Inappropriate uses of land affect air quality, water quality, and long-term economic prosperity. Poor land use ultimately hinders the quality of life for all of our state's residents.

Now, more than ever, we must work together to achieve common goals. For our environment, and for future generations, we must use the tools we have to capitalize on our collective strengths and strive to coordinate our efforts. Our resources belong to all of us; therefore, it is up to all of us to ensure their preservation. No single level of government can do it alone.

It is a new era for Michigan's environment, one of which I am proud to be a part. Our children and future generations will be the ones who determine if we have made the right decisions. I hope you will join us in an effort to do so.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Chester
Director